

## **Seamens' Day - Prayer on Their Behalf**

*Professor Dhammavihari*

Let us begin with a sincere wish from the depths of our hearts that all beings around us, above and below, on land and on sea, shall all be safe and secure. May all living things, both big and small, live in comfort and ease, with no threat to their lives from any source, from land below or heaven above.

That shall always be the territory where human love travels, with no limitations of seen or unseen, known or unknown, near or far. Neither in anger or in resentment, through pride or through prejudice, shall any one of us in the east or the west, wish ill of another. Our love to all shall always be like that of a mother to her own dear child, guarding such a one even at the risk of her own life.

Today we are specially assembled here this morning to pray, using your own language, as a joint community, for the safety and security of men at sea who, we are assured, are dedicated to serve man. We join you whole-heartedly, without any reservations. It is man that matters to us, his survival and his salvation, Not his manners.

There was a time in the history of the world when seas separated man from man with vast stretches of water. But man we know is born with a curiosity to explore, as did old Adam the fruits of the forbidden tree. But man, if he does not use his judgement wisely, shall be called upon, sooner or later, to pay a price for what he does.

Men at sea are bound to bring humanity close to each other, with feelings of love and philanthropy. The merchant navy shall bring to newer and newer groups of people supplies of food and other articles of day to day utility they had never seen or heard of before. These shall enrich the living style of mankind, without arrogant brand names like the developed and the less developed.

The vessels at sea shall, in the name of God, always be carriers of peace and not of war. These shall equally well apply to vessels that fly in the air, trans-Atlantic or trans- Pacific. Skill and ingenuity of man shall make travel by land, sea or air, nearly fool-proof, in spite of disastrous blow ups like that of the Anglo-French Concord in Paris.

Our one and only prayer today shall be this and this alone. Let the world of tomorrow never come to hear of a Spanish Armada, of a Battle of Waterloo, of bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki or of a war in search of weapons of Mass Destruction. We pray, may God take up his residence with us down on earth here soon, and put each one of us in our rightful place, much earlier than anticipated.

Finally, may the lives of Seamen who serve on the High Seas be blessed and safeguarded and their homes be made prosperous for the cause they serve.

Sadhu, Sadhu, Sadhu.

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